

DEC 23 2016

Mr. Randall Haney
Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority
1491 Lee Clarkson Road
Chickamauga, Georgia 30707

RE: Drought Response Variance Approval -- Drought Response Level One

Dear Mr. Haney:

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 12-5-7 and GA Rule 391-3-30-.08, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has reviewed the Walker County Water Authority's (the Authority) request for a variance from the current State Drought Response Level Two to a Drought Response Level One in order to implement less stringent restrictions.

A review of your variance application and supporting documentation indicate that the water levels in the system's main source of supply (Plant Well #4) as well as the Crayfish Spring Lake reservoir, and the additional eight (8) wells located in the Tennessee River Basin, have experienced only a very small drop in their levels. Furthermore, EPD's conversation with the Authority on December 20, 2016 confirms that current demands are half of the permitted capacity of the system, and are being adequately satisfied by the Plant Well #4.

Therefore, based on this information EPD has determined that good cause has been shown to support your request. EPD hereby approves a variance for the Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority to implement Drought Response Level One measures in the applicable service areas, as provided in GA Rule 391-3-30.07(2). As you requested, this approval is valid for sixty (60) days from the date of this letter. However, if conditions change within your area and your sources experience a drop in their levels sufficient to not provide a reliable supply, please notify EPD and provide any new applicable information. On the other hand, if ten days prior to the expiration of this variance, the conditions remain stable, please notify EPD so it may determine if a timeframe extension is warranted.

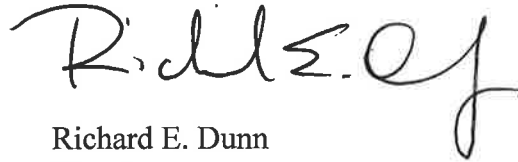
In addition to the above, this variance includes the following special condition requiring the Authority to:

1. Review its drought contingency plan pursuant to EPD Rules 391-3-6-.07(4)(b)9 and 391-3-30, revise it accordingly, and submit it for approval by the EPD Director;

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If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Mr. Bennett Weinstein, EPD's Water Supply Program Manager, at 404-651-5155.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Dunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Dunn" clearly distinguishable.

Richard E. Dunn
Director

Cc: Gene Mathis, Walker County Water and Sewerage Authority
Jac Capp
Gail Cowie
Bennett Weinstein